(d) The fall in exports of basmati rice occurred due to depressed demand in the importing countries and high domestic prices.

(e) Some of the measures taken to promote export of rice include, inter-alia, conducting publicity campaigns, delegations abroad, participating in International Trade Fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Restrictions on Consumer items

866. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news item appearing in the Business Standard dated 7th June, 1996 under the caption "Quantitative Restrictions on consumer items to go" have come to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Export and Import Policy is periodially reviewed for effecting such changes as may be necessary from time to time.

Rehabilitation of Disabled

867. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 1.8 percent of population suffers from either locomotor, speech, hearing or visual disabilities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that approximate 2.5 percent of population suffers from mental disability; and

(c) if so, steps taken by Government to meet this challenge for education, training, financial assistance, employment and rehabilitation in country, particularly, in the State of Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) As per the sample survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991, 1.9% of the total population in the country suffers from visual, speech, hearing and locomotor disabilities.

(b) No survey on mental disability was conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation. However, surveys conducted by various organisations indicate that about 2 to 2.5% of the total population in the country suffers from mental disability.

(c) A Statement containing steps taken by the Government for the welfare of the handicapped persons in the country including the State of Punjab is in the Statement.

Statement

Rehabilitation of disabled

(1) *Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled*

Under this scheme, assistance is provided to voluntary organisations to run rehabilitation programmes for the disabled. It is a comprehensive scheme covering different areas of rehabilitation physically, phychological, social and economic, Financial support is given to the extent of 90% of the total project cost (upto 90% for the rural areas) for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingencies and non-recurring items like construction of building, equipment, furniture. Financial assistance is given for the projects such as vocational training centres, special schools, counselling centres, hostels, training centres for personnels, placement services etc.

(2) *Establishment and Development of Special Schools*

The scheme envisages assistance to the NGOs to the extent of 90% for establishment and upgradation of special schools in four major disabilities Orthopaedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given to setting up of schools in districts where there are no special schools at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported by the Ministry.

(3) *Assistance to Organisations for persons with Cerebral Palsy & Mental Retardation for manpower development*

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs upto the extent of 100% for running training courses for researchers in the area of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation.

(4) *Assistance to Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons*

Under this scheme, assistance is given upto 90% to voluntary organisations in developing programmes for rehabilitation of leprosy cured persons.

(5) *National Institutes*

In order to effectively deal with the multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the following four National Institutes have been set up. These institutes are apex level organisations in the field of training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation, development of suitable service modules. These Institutes also serve as premier documentation and information centres in their are of disability:—

(i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.

(ii) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta.

(iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay.

(iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secundrabad.

In addition to these the following two institutions have been set up primarily as service institutions for providing general services to the handicapped persons:—

(i) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

(ii) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Olatpur, Orissa.

(6) *Employment*

(i) Section 33 of the persons with Disabilities (Equal Oppoartunities, Protection of Rights & Full Paticipation) Act, 1995 contains a provision that the appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment not less than 3% of persons with Disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from:—

(a) blindness or low vision;

(b) hearing impairment; and

(c) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the post identified for each disability.

3% reservation in Group 'C' & 'D' for handicapped persons had already been there even before the Law came into force. Similar reservation have also been given by some State Govts. In addition, the handicapped are also given 'ago concessions' in the upper age limit and relaxation in the 'medical standards' for entry into Govt. jobs.

(ii) 47 Special Employment Exchanges and 41 Special cells for the handicapped persons

have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides the Normal Employment Exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the reidual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following:

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and shops by some State Govts./UTs;

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at concessional Rates of Interest;

(c) Preference in allotment of Public Telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of Petrol Pumps, Kerosene Depots etc.

(7) *Scheme of Assistance to disabed for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances*

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procurring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliance that promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by the Companies, registered under Companies Act, registered Societies, frusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Welfare. Both governmental and non-governmental agencies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, aids and appliances upto value of Rs. 3600/- are distributed to the disabled persons free of cost if their monthly income is upto Rs. 1200/- and at 50% of the cost if the income is between Rs. 1201/- to Rs. 2500/-.

(8) Government of India have recently enacted "The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995." The Act provides prevention and early detection of disabilities, education, employment non-discrimination etc. for disabled persons including mentally handicapped persons.

(9) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corpn. is being set up to provide an additional channel of finance at concessional rates to enable the handicapped persons to take up self-employment projects.

Direct foreign investment

868. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the sector-wise direct foreign investment permitted actually received during each of the year since 1991-92, 1993-94 and 1995-96;

(b) the break up in terms of portfolio investments, investment in services, infrastructure, core sectors, consumer durables and consumer sectors; and

(c) the estimates of extra employment generated during the above period sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Total Foreign Direct Investment approved and actually received during 1991-92, 1993-94 and 1995-96 are as under:—